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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): David D. Demarest, et al.

Serial No: 09/776,658

Examiner: C. Dexter

Filed: February 5, 2001

Art Unit: 3724

For: SUTURE CUTTING SYSTEM

Docket: 8924ZA (ETH-1551)

Dated: November 15, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated August 15, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 21-29 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,816. In response, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 15, 2001.

Dated: November 15, 2001

Mishelle Mustafa